

Lafayette Charter Commission

Purpose

- Review and study the Home Rule Charter and suggest proposed revisions, additions or amendments; or
- Prepare and propose alternate charters for the City of Lafayette and for the Parish of Lafayette.

Nine members

- Five residents of City of Lafayette
- Four residents of unconsolidated Parish of Lafayette

Reporting Deadline: April 21, 2011.

Charter Commission proposal(s) may not be altered by Lafayette City Parish Council which is charged with promptly calling an election for consideration by voters.

- Election in fall, 2011 possible; but
- Election in spring, 2012, more probable

Major issues being addressed:

- Governance of the Lafayette Utilities System which is owned by City of Lafayette citizens
- Self-governance for the City of Lafayette
- Retain / maintain consolidation of public services in the city and parish of Lafayette

Currently deliberating three Charters:

1. Proposed revisions, additions or amendments to the existing Home Rule Charter;
2. A City of Lafayette Home Rule Charter
 - a. Mayor
 - b. 7-member Council
3. A Parish of Lafayette Home Rule Charter
 - a. Parish President
 - b. 9-member Council

All actions / votes are preliminary and subject to change prior to a final determination of what proposal(s) will be presented to the voters of Lafayette.

Minutes of the Lafayette Charter Commission are available on-line at
http://www.lafayettela.gov/council/charter_commission_minutes.asp

History

Although the Home Rule Charter of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government was adopted in 1992 and became effective in June, 1996, it has never been amended; and experience gained by operating under the Home Rule Charter has indicated certain areas or provisions of the Home Rule Charter which might be clarified, modified or restructured.

The Lafayette Charter Commission has been appointed for the purpose of reviewing and studying the Home Rule Charter and suggesting proposed revisions, additions or amendments to the Home Rule Charter or to prepare and propose alternate charters for the City of Lafayette and for the Parish of Lafayette. The proposal(s) will then be submitted for ratification to the qualified electors of the City-Parish government at an election already authorized for other purposes or at a special election called by the council.

The Commission consists of nine (9) persons:

- The Lafayette City-Parish Council has appointed seven (7) members, four (4) of whom reside in the City of Lafayette and three (3) of whom reside outside of any municipality in the Parish; and
- The Lafayette City-Parish President has appointed two (2) Commission members, one (1) of whom resides in the City of Lafayette and one (1) of whom resides outside of any municipality in the Parish of Lafayette.

Proposal(s) require the approval by a majority vote of the membership of the Commission and the Commission shall file the proposal (s) no later April 21, 2011. Upon the filing of proposal(s), the Lafayette City-Parish Council shall promptly take all actions as required by law for the calling of an election to consider the proposal(s).

Commission members serve without compensation. The Commission has the authority to employ such experts, employees, and consultants as it may deem necessary to assist in the discharge of its responsibility to the extent that funds are made available; however, all proposed expenditures must have prior approval by the Lafayette City-Parish Council.

The Commission is empowered to propose the repeal or replacement of the Home Rule Charter or particular revisions, additions or amendments to the Home Rule Charter, by either a single plan or to propose alternative plans which may consist of two (2) or more plans of government for the City of Lafayette and/or the Parish of Lafayette. If Commission proposes a repeal of the Home Rule Charter, it must propose Charters or plans of government for the City of Lafayette and for the Parish of Lafayette.

Proposals will go to the voters no earlier than the fall of 2011; more probably in the spring of 2012.

According to state law, Lafayette City-Parish Council members and the Parish President elected in the fall of 2011 will serve a full four year term regardless of the outcome of the proposals presented by the Charter Commission. Their term of office will begin in 2012.